

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action of June 28, 2007.

Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this First Response, claims 1-13 and 15-22 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-5, 9, 15, and 18 are directly amended herein. Furthermore, claim 14 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 21 and 22 are newly added. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

Response to §102 Rejections

A proper rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that a single prior art reference disclose each element of the claim. See, e.g., *W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983).

Claim 1

Claim 1 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Wolrich* (U.S. Patent No. 7,023,844). Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. A circuit for multiplexing a plurality of data words including a first data word and a second data word, comprising:
 - a plurality of data connections;
 - first stage logic having a first tristate driver, the first tristate driver configured to receive the first data word from one of the connections and to transmit the first data word received; and
 - second stage logic configured to receive the first data word from the first stage logic and to receive the second data word from another of the plurality of data connections, the second stage logic configured to select for transmission one of the first data word and the second data word based upon a set of select signals, the second stage logic configured to transmit the data word selected for transmission by the second stage logic, ***the second stage logic having a connection, a second tristate driver, and a third tristate driver, the second tristate driver having an output electrically coupled to an output of the third***

tristate driver, the second tristate driver configured to receive the first data word from the first tristate driver and to drive the connection of the second stage logic with the first data word if the first data word is selected for transmission by the second stage logic, the third tristate driver configured to receive the second data word and to drive the connection of the second stage logic with the second data word if the second data word is selected for transmission by the second stage logic. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wolrich* fails to disclose at least the features of claim 1 highlighted above. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1, as amended, is improper.

In this regard, *Wolrich* appears to disclose a distributed arrangement of switches. However, *Wolrich* fails to disclose at least an arrangement of “tristate drivers,” as recited by claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that *Wolrich* fails to disclose each feature of pending claim 1. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, and 21

Claims 2 and 3 presently stand rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Wolrich*. In addition, claim 21 has been newly added via the amendments set forth herein. Applicant submits that the pending dependent claims 2, 3, and 21 contain all features of their respective independent claim 1. Since claim 1 should be allowed, as argued hereinabove, pending dependent claims 2, 3, and 21 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Claim 15

Claim 15 presently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Wolrich*. Claim 15 reads as follows:

15. A method for distributing multiplexing, comprising:
 - transmitting a first data word from a first tristate driver to a second tristate driver;
 - receiving a second data word; and
 - selecting for transmission between the first data word and the second data word based upon a set of select signals;
driving a first connection with the first data word via the second tristate driver if the first data word is selected by the selecting; and driving the first connection with the second data word via a third tristate driver if the second data word is selected by the selecting. (Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wolrich* fails to disclose at least the features of claim 15 highlighted above. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 15, as amended, is improper.

In this regard, *Wolrich* appears to disclose a method of using a distributed arrangement of switches. However, *Wolrich* fails to disclose at least that "tristate drivers" are used to drive a connection as recited by claim 15.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that *Wolrich* fails to disclose each feature of pending claim 15. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 15 should be withdrawn.

Claims 16, 17, and 22

Claims 16 and 17 presently stand rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by *Wolrich*. In addition, claim 22 has been newly added via the amendments set forth herein. Applicant submits that the pending dependent claims 16, 17, and 22 contain all features of their respective independent claim 15. Since claim 15 should be allowed, as argued hereinabove, pending dependent claims 16, 17, and 22 should be allowed as a matter of law for at least this reason. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-13 are allowed. In addition, claims 4-7 and 18-20 have been indicated as allowable by the outstanding Office Action if such claims are rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base claims. Accordingly, pending claims 4, 5, and 18 have been amended herein to include at least the features of their respective base claims, and Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to these claims be withdrawn. Further, the remaining non-allowed claims 6, 7, 19, and 20 include the features of at least one of the aforementioned allowable claims 5 and 18. Thus, claims 6, 7, 19, and 20 are allowable as a matter of law. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1600 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

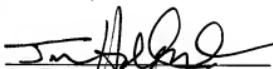
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicant's response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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